

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-10

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SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7797

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 02111

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BONN VIEWS ON AIR MANPOWER

REF: USNATO 612

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH FONOFF MBFR OFFICE DIRECTOR RUTH ON FEBRUARY 5, THE BONN VIEW ON THE US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL WAS AGAIN REAFFIRMED. RUTH REITERATED THREE OF THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED ON A PERSONAL BASIS IN BRUSSELS BY THE FRG REP (REFTEL). FIRST, THE GERMANS ARE NOT ENAMORED OF THE US APPROACH BECAUSE THEY FEEL, DISCLAIMERS NOTWITHSTANDING, THAT THE EUROPEANS WILL PERFORCE BE REQUIRED TO TAKE AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II SINCE THE PRECEDENT WILL HAVE BEEN SET BY AMERICAN AND SOVIET PHASE I REDUCTIONS. SECOND, THE GERMANS ARE FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT ADVANCEMENT OF THE US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME WILL BUY THE WEST

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NOTHING. IN THIS CONNECTION, RUTH REMARKED THAT HE HAS

HAD INDICATIONS THAT THE USG IS NOT INCLINED TO RUSH THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. RUTH ALSO REFERRED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESENTATION AT THE DECEMBER 12-13 NAC TO ENFORCE HIS POINT. FINALLY, THE GERMANS ARE CONVINCED THAT A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE AGREED ALLIANCE POSITION, SUCH AS THAT REPRESENTED BY THE US PROPOSAL, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AFTER A PRESUMABLY POSITIVE DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE USG ON OPTION III AND ITS ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN A COMPREHENSIVE WESTERN POSITION.

2. RUTH SAID HE AND FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON TO CONSULT ON THE ABOVE AND OTHER MBFR/CSCE ISSUES. ONE ITEM OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE QUESTION OF THE FORM OF THE AGREEMENT. RUTH IS HOPEFUL THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO HARMONIZE VIEWS BEFORE DIVERGENT POSITION PAPERS ARE FORMALLY PRESENTED. HE INDICATED THE GERMAN EMBASSY WILL APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT TO SUGGEST FEBRUARY 19-20 AS PROSPECTIVE DATES. AMBASSADOR ROTH PLANS TO TAKE AN EXTENDED VACATION FROM MARCH 1 TO APRIL 20.
HILLENBRAND

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